

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 2, 5, and 8-11 have been amended. Claims 1 and 12-15 have been cancelled. Claims 2-11 are pending and under consideration. Claims 3 and 4 are allowed.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-2, 5-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibuya (U.S. Patent 6,051,896) in view of Chaya (U.S. Patent 5,818,666). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibuya (U.S. Patent 6,051,896) in view of Wacker (EP 0744815 A2). Claims 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Emoto (U.S. Patent 5,679,384) in view of Chaya (U.S. Patent 5,818,666).

The rejections are moot insofar as the rejected claims are cancelled or amended to depend from allowed claims.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

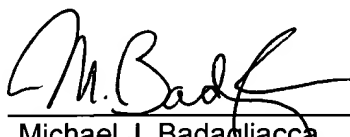
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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5-18-04

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